COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, *the* *18th of Karkadagam 1103.* / *2nd of August 1928.*

The House met at Half past Eleven of the Clock with the Diwan-President in the Chair. Messrs. K. T. Mathew, Rao Sahib C. Matthai and Ouseph P. Kundukulam were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Diversion of the Chalakkudi River.

31. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) when was the proposal for the diversion of the water of the Chalakkudi river for the use of Travancore first taken up for consideration; how was this file closed by the Cochin Government;

(b) was the proposal again taken up for consideration during the regime of Diwan Rao Bahadur Mr. P. Narayana Menon; was it not dropped then;

(c) whether the subject was reopened during the time of the present Diwan; if so, at what stage does the correspondence now stand;

(d) whether the Government be pleased to place on the Table the correspondence on the first two occasions?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—The correspondence was started in 1920. As the correspondence is confidential dealing with interstatal questions, nothing further can be stated nor can it be placed on the Table.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is the whole river to be diverted in the name of Travancore?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I have stated that no further information can be placed before the House.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is it because it will affect the people of Cochin? If it will affect the people of Cochin, may I know why the information cannot be given?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I cannot say it will affect the people of Cochin.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Can the Hon'ble Member say that it will not affect the people of Cochin?

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Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—When something is to be done, then of course we will take the opinion of the Members. But at present the information in our hands cannot be divulged. Before anything is done, which will injuriously affect Cochin people, certainly the House will be referred to.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The files which I have referred to here must have been closed by this time.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—The question was raised during the period of Mr. P. Narayana Menon, the late Diwan of Cochin and so, it must have been closed.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then why not that be placed here?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is more or less an interstatal question. It cannot be divulged at present.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Last year, when I put the same question, the answer to me was that it was then too premature to place the papers on the Table.

This objection is not stated here now. Now another objection is stated.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is to avoid giving answers, perhaps.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I think so.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I do not think so; I am sorry.

Well-boring in Trichur.

32. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the exact amount spent in well-boring in Trichur;

(b) the results of the experiment so far conducted?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—(a) Rs. 1,040.

(b) As yet nothing can be definitely said about the prospects of a good supply. The amount placed to the credit of the Department was fully spent and the work has been stopped for the present.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Do the Government think that well-boring is a failure in Trichur?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—It is too premature to say whether it will be a failure or it will be a success.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then why the work was stopped altogether?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—The reason is given there, that the amount was exhausted.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—And no provision is made in the next year?

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